

Kenya: Doctors nationwide strike

Doctors at Kenya's public hospitals have entered the seventh day of a nationwide strike, accusing the government of failing to implement a raft of promises from a collective bargaining agreement signed in 2017 after a 100-day strike that saw people dying from lack of care.

African democracy a "ship in troubled waters"

The Vice President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, Damtien Tchintchibidja, said that although her region was the first to introduce democracy in Africa, it is now known for coups and unconstitutional changes of government; this is due to the fact that the social contract has been torn apart. Six of the nine coups in Africa between 2020 and 2023 took place in West Africa. Ahead of the elections in Senegal, the African Union says "democracy on the continent is like a "ship in troubled waters". 21.03.2024

House search of the speaker of parliament

An elite unit of the South African police has searched the home of Parliament Speaker Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula in Johannesburg over allegations of corruption. She is accused of demanding bribes in return for the awarding of contracts during her time as Minister of Defense. The police unit acted on behalf of the public prosecutor's office, which was conducting an investigation. "The President maintains her firm conviction that she is innocent," a parliamentary statement said. 20.03.2024

Submarine cables paralyze internet services

Large parts of West and Central Africa as well as some countries in the south of the continent were without internet services on March 14 because four of the fiber optic cables that run under the world's oceans failed. Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso and South Africa were among the worst affected. The damage to major submarine cables was near Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire. Most submarine cable failures are due to human activities such as fishing and anchoring in shallow waters close to shore, natural events such as earthquakes and landslides, and equipment failures. The repair of damaged submarine cables can take around five weeks. According to the service provider, the steps to be taken include first identifying and assigning a vessel to obtain the spare parts required for the repair and then traveling to the fault location to carry out the repair work. The next step to complete the repair is to pull the affected section of submarine cable from the seabed onto the vessel, where qualified technicians will reassemble it.

A bitter setback for women

In 2015, under President Jammeh, female genital mutilation (FGM) was criminalized because it was not necessary in Islam. Now Muslim clerics are pushing for the ban to be lifted, while women's rights activists are fighting to keep it. More than three quarters of all Gambian women between the ages of 15 and 49 have been victims of FGM and have suffered immensely. The Female Lawyers Association will continue to campaign to ensure that women's fundamental rights are preserved and not violated again by the National Assembly's

decision. MPs voted 42 in favor and four against to refer the bill to a parliamentary committee for further consideration for at least three months before returning for a third reading. 20.03.2024

Angola: 50 dead in anti-witchcraft rituals

Around 50 people have died after being forced to drink an herbal potion to prove they were not practicing witchcraft. The deaths occurred between January and February near the central town of Camacupa. The belief in witchcraft is still widespread in some rural communities, despite strong opposition from the church in the predominantly Catholic former Portuguese colony. The deaths have been confirmed by the police. There are no laws against witchcraft in Angola, so it is up to the communities to decide how to deal with the problem.

Zimbabwe: Police rescue 251 children

A social media post alerted the police to a cult that was keeping 251 children - without birth certificates and without attending school - as labor slaves on a farm in Mashonaland West. During a raid, police also discovered 16 unregistered graves, including those of some infants. The children were brought to safety and are being examined by doctors. The eight self-proclaimed prophets are in custody and will face trial for violating child protection laws. 18.03.2024

Kenya: Housing Levy Act

President William Ruto is expected to sign the Affordable Housing Bill this morning, marking a major step towards the implementation of the housing project and the commencement of the collection of a 1.5% housing levy from Kenyans this month. Under the provisions of the new law, both employers and employees will be required to contribute 1.5% of their income towards the construction of affordable housing across the country. The controversial bill was forwarded to the President last week after it was passed by Parliament. 18.03.2024

African Snakebite Alliance

Kenya, Eswatini, Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda have joined forces in the fight against a common enemy: snakebites. With the help of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), they want to find better ways to combat snakebites and develop region-specific vaccines against snake venom under the banner of the new African Snakebite Alliance. Snakebite rates in sub-Saharan Africa vary between 100 and 650 bites per 100,000 people per year. 59% of snakebites are treated by traditional healers and 25% are not even seen by a doctor. Only 16% are officially recorded in medical facilities. The report in Science Translational Medicine explains that the incidence of snakebites has increased tenfold and the number of deaths has increased 30-fold.

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

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